

THE JEWISH HERALD

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THE JEW AND HIS PROBLEM.

Judaism is not a matter of confession, nor is it a matter of race alone. As Rabbi Emil Hirsch, of Chicago, has defined it, 'Judaism is a gift of birth that cannot be lost or shaken off, and it carries with it the mission of spreading the monotheistic conception among all nations, until the message of love and righteousness be accomplished.' The Jew has become as certain an ingredient to the brew of our national melting pot, as Zangwill speaks of America, as has the son of any other race that seeks our shores.

The problem of the Jew in America is the problem of all of us, for he comes here athirst for freedom and eager to shoulder the burdens that freedom of religion and of government imposes upon him as a member of our body politic. And yet the way of the Jew among us is far more stony than it should be. Bigotry is still the relentless Nemesis that it was in the days of witchcraft in Salem. The Jews cannot send his children to many of the schools of the country. Many of the hotels and summer resorts openly display such bigoted sentiments as "No Jews need apply." And so-called society, that worships at the sign of the golden calf, will have none of him in its clubs, social, professional and political. And yet we have all one Father, though many profane the covenant of their fathers by treacherous dealing against their brothers in His love.

With it all, with all the centuries of persecution and denied opportunities, the Jew has rapidly forged his way to a prominent social and commercial standing among us. Every industry knows that keen intellect, that firm grasp of situation; no school or university but recognizes that this people, in its thirst for knowledge, is giving the nation leaders in every branch of science and intellectual endeavor. No Jew has ever been a burden to the

community. Centuries of suffering have taught the lesson of forbearance and sympathy, and everywhere they are building institutions for the indigent and unfortunate among them—institutions that are everlasting monuments to the glory of the race. The Jew is facing his problem courageously—he realizes that his stony path can be smoothed only by patient and conscientious labor. An Englishman said recently that "Show me!" is our national catchword. The Jews are "showing us" to the credit of the race and of our country.—Leslie's Weekly.

CORNER STONE SETTING OF TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL.

On Sunday May 5th at 4 p. m. took place the ceremony of setting the corner stone of the new Temple of Adath Israel congregation on Elysean street at which a very large crowd was in attendance. Mr. L. S. Ruppman acted as chairman of the meeting and the following program was gone through with:

1. Minchah Service—Rev. J. Geller.
2. Chanting of Psalm 127—Rev. H. B. Lieberman.
3. Setting of the corner Stone—M. Maltz.
4. Address in English—Rabbi H. Barnstein of Beth Israel Congregation.
5. Address in German—Rabbi W. Willner of Adath Yeshurun Congregation.
6. Address in Yiddish—Rev. J. Geller.
7. Address in Yiddish—Mr. Abe Gordon, President Adath Yeshurun Congregation.
8. Chanting of Psalm 122—Rev. H. B. Lieberman.

All the addresses were able efforts and attentively listened to by all present. About \$200.00 in offerings were collected and telegrams and letters of congratulations from out-of-town friends and congregations re-

ceived were read. Congratulations were then extended all around by those present and the meeting adjourned.

THE ZIONIST READING ROOM.

One of the latest works of the Houston Zionists, is the establishing of a reading-room in one of the Adath Yeshurun halls. This, for the time being, very modest institution, was born without pomp and without ostentatious drum beating. Through the good will of a few Zionists, a room was secured and a small fund collected with which to subscribe to the leading Jewish periodical publications in Hebrew, English, German and Yiddish. The nucleus of what is hoped once to become a creditable library, is being formed through the donations of books on Jewish subjects.

The plan of the librarian is to make the management of the reading room truly democratic. At the last meeting of the Sons and Daughters of Zion, he called upon the members for volunteers to act as assistant librarians at certain intervals of time. The response was such as to show the great interest the members are taking in this work. Some offered to assist as often as one evening each week, some once every two weeks. The list of the voluntary librarians from among the members, will probably soon reach such a mark, as to make it possible for the reading room to be open almost every evening.

Of course, the usefulness of the reading room will, to a great extent, depend upon the quantity and quality of the reading matter it will be able to offer to its visitors. To this end the librarian appeals to everybody in sympathy with this movement, to help bring the reading-room up to its greatest usefulness.

All those who are inclined to assist by donating books or funds, will please communicate with the librarian.

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